

## Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-05 PM-03 SP-02 PRS-01 SAB-01 L-02

RSC-01 /026 W

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R 232113Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2616

CONFIDENTIAL PANAMA 7294

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PQ, PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN SQUATTERS IN CANAL ZONE

1. WILL BE RECALLED THAT EARLIER THIS YEAR GEN. TORRIJOS PROMISED RESETTLEMENT OF SQUATTERS FROM CANAL ZONE BY DEC. 31. SOUTHCOM PLANNED TO SEND LARGE MILITARY PATROLS INTO AFFECTED AREAS DURING NEXT FEW DAYS TO DETERMINE NUMBER OF SQUATTERS AND TO VERIFY WHETHER ANY SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN SQUATTERS AND PLANTED AREAS HAS TAKEN PLACE. GOP WAS SO INFORMED.

2. AMBASSADOR RECEIVED MESSAGES FROM GEN. TORRIJOS AND NATIONAL GUARD G-2, LTC NORIEGA, EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT EXTREMISTS IN VERACRUZ AREA (NEAR HOWARD AFB) COULD EXPLOIT PATROL ACTIVITIES AS PRETEXT TO STIMULATE ANTI-US FEELINGS. THEY REQUESTED AMBASSADOR'S ASSISTANCE IN HAVING PATROLS DELAYED. AMBASSADOR CONSULTED WITH CINC AND OBTAINED HIS AGREEMENT TO SUSPEND PATROLS FOR TIME BEING.

3. CINC INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT LTC NORIEGA CALLED ON HIM DEC. 23 TO REPEAT GOP CONCERNS ABOUT POTENTIAL TROUBLES RESULTING FROM U.S. PATROLS AND TO REQUEST POSTPONEMENT WHILE GOP RESETTLEMENT PLANS PROGRESSED. NORIEGA ALSO ASKED THAT IF PATROL ACTIVITY PLANNED THAT

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IT BE CARRIED OUT IN CONJUNCTION WITH NATIONAL GUARD.

CINC AND G-2 AGREED THAT THEIR REPS WOULD MEET AT BEGINNING OF NEW YEAR TO PLAN A JOINT SURVEY OPERATION. CINC ASKED G-2 FOR ESTIMATE OF TIME IT WILL TAKE GOP TO COMPLETE RESETTLEMENT AND LATTER RESPONDED APPROXIMATELY MAY 1975. G-2 ADDED ORDER HAD BEEN ISSUED THAT NO NEW PLANTING WOULD BE PERMITTED AFTER DEC. 31.

4. GOVT-CONTROLLED MATUTINO OF DEC. 23 CARRIES FULL PAGE OF PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING NEW RURAL HOUSING BEING OCCUPIED BY SQUATTERS RELOCATED FROM MADDEN LAKE AREA OF CANAL ZONE WITH PROMINENT MENTION OF ROLE PLAYED BY LTC NORIEGA.

JORDEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, SQUATTERS, LAND TENURE  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Subject:** PANAMANIAN SQUATTERS IN CANAL ZONE  
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